

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP TREASURER BRENDA MCKINNEY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Brenda McKinney on the occasion of her retirement from Superior Township, Michigan, where she has served as Treasurer for over 25 years. Her significant contributions to our community are worthy of commendation.

Ms. McKinney has a long history of service to Washtenaw County, Michigan. In 1996, she retired from the Washtenaw County Treasurer's Office after 15 years of service. She decided to bring her wealth of knowledge back home and run for Treasurer of Superior Township in August of 1996. Ms. McKinney was successful. She made history as the township's first elected African-American treasurer and has been reelected every 4 years since. Responsible for managing the Township's funds and investments, she has modernized and improved the Township's tax collection and cash management systems. Her efforts to improve the functioning of the Treasurer's office will benefit the Township and its residents for years to come.

For the past 26 years, Ms. McKinney has been a crucial leader in Superior Township and has always been willing to step up to the plate. Recently, she worked with local leaders in ministry to ensure that all members of the community have access to the vaccinations they need to be healthy. When people are hungry, she makes sure they are fed and connects those in need to affordable housing and health care services. Active in charitable causes and serving on several humanitarian boards, she is a mentor to her fellow public servants and a friend to many. Everything she does is in service of her fellow neighbors, and the passion she has for her community is evident in her work. Ms. McKinney continues to reside in Superior Township with her family.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Treasurer Brenda McKinney. We are grateful for her nearly 40 years spent serving the citizens of Superior Township and Washtenaw County. Her wisdom, experience, and caring heart has guided me in my own public service, and I am blessed to call her my friend. I join with Brenda's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to her in retirement.

HONORING THE PATRIOTIC SERVICE OF CHOC CHRISTOPHER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the lengthy public service career of Choc Christopher.

For the last eighteen years, Choc has faithfully served the students, teachers, and administrators of the Celina Independent School District as a Trustee. He has dedicated his career to expanding and improving education access for students of all ages in Celina, Texas. Moreover, he served as President of the Celina School Board for five years and worked on the Alla Hubbard Educational Trust Board for eight years. Choc leaves behind a powerful legacy that encompasses an efficient school administration, updated facilities, and expanded access to education. Generations of students, teachers, and administrators will benefit from Choc's extraordinary contributions to the Celina ISD community.

Mr. Christopher was instrumental to Celina ISD's rapid growth, and through his leadership, the students of Celina experienced brand new, state-of-the-art educational facilities and sports complexes. Choc is also a twenty-one-year member of the Celina Quarterback Club and had the privilege of operating the clock for Celina High School and Celina Middle School football games—his favorite pastime.

I have requested a United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize Choc Christopher's lifelong contributions to the good people of Celina, Texas. Furthermore, Madam Speaker, I would like to personally commend Mr. Christopher for his years of dedication to Celina ISD. May God bless him in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING GUAM'S NATIBU DANCE ACADEMY ON THEIR 27TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL F. Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Guam's Natibu Dance Academy (Natibu) for their exceptional talents, acclaimed performances, and outstanding commitment as ambassadors of our island community, CHamoru heritage, and vibrant Pacific region. I would like to further congratulate Dr. Benjamin "Benjie" Santiago for over 27 years of leadership in advancing the Hafa Adai spirit beyond Guam's shores by fostering the skills and passions of countless dancers through the Academy.

Impassioned with a mission to cultivate greater cultural diversity in dance, Dr. Santiago founded Natibu in 1995. From a

humble summer camp at the Barrigada Community Center to success on numerous international stages, the group that once consisted of only 21 students has grown into a thriving agent of CHamoru pride, learning, generosity, and excellence. Uniquely navigating a mix of CHamoru, Hawaiian, Tahitian, and Maori genres, Natibu is a visionary force in the world of traditional dance. Dr. Santiago's certifications by the late Uncle George Lanakilakeikiahiali'i Na'ope and Al Makahinu Barcarse as Kumu Hula in 1999 and 2002 respectively, further strengthen his ability to explore new opportunities for Natibu dancers to rise as champions of artistic discovery.

The numerous recognitions Natibu has garnered throughout the years illustrate the distinction with which they represent Guam. In addition to earning the Governor's arts awards and Hafa Adai spirit award, the group has obtained several top placements in the local Guahan Asia Hula Festival and Dinanña' Minagof Chamorro Dance Competitions. With Honorary 1st and Overall Championship titles at Oahu festivals including the Keiki Hula Competition, King Kamehameha Hula Competition, Hula 'Oni Festival, and the E Ho'i Mai I ka Piko Hula World Invitational, they also maintain a fine record of elevating Guam's presence among international communities. Moreover, they have tirelessly pursued greater connections with places as far as Taiwan, China, Japan, and the Philippines through various promotional collaborations with the Guam Visitors Bureau.

On behalf of the People of Guam, I would like to extend a sincere congratulations to the Natibu Dance Academy for their many years of service to our island, region, and larger Pacific family. The traditions and stories they share through the art of cultural dance admirably empower our community, enrich others, and inspire many more to similarly honor the histories inscribed on our Pacific peoples. I further commend Dr. Benjamin "Benjie" Santiago for his dedication to developing novel connections between cultural revitalization, transpacific identity, and the gifts and talents of our youth. It is truly an honor to join both Natibu and Dr. Santiago as they celebrate nearly three decades of achievements and growth, and I look forward to seeing the next chapter of their journey as they continue to elevate CHamoru and Pacific voices.

RECOGNIZING MS. KAREN APONTE

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Karen Aponte on the occasion of her retirement from the Los Angeles Police Department. After 42 years of dedicated civic service to the people and communities of Los Angeles, Ms. Aponte will be deeply missed.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Ms. Aponte's career began in June 1980 with the City of Los Angeles as a parking attendant. In April 1986, she joined the Los Angeles Police Department as a Police Service Representative, where she answered to 9–1–1 emergency calls as a frontline responder to those in need of help. In times of crisis and major events, Ms. Aponte provided consistent and critical support to law enforcement. Ms. Aponte's achievements have resulted in more than 27 well-deserved commendations during her career.

She earned recognition for her performance during the 1992 Civil Unrest, the devastating 1994 earthquake, her professionalism during situations with distressed children, and during the Lakers Championship parade in 2000 when a tactical alert was declared after 250,000 people filled the streets of Los Angeles. During the Democratic National Convention in 2020, Ms. Aponte received praise for her commitment to service excellence.

In 2001 Ms. Aponte was assigned to the Timekeeping Unit where she evolved as the timekeeping subject expert. She worked diligently to ensure the smooth function of the unit as she exceptionally performed all her duties. There was no task too big or too small that Ms. Aponte did not welcome.

For her remarkable accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Police Service Representative II Karen Aponte. Her decades of public service and commitment to the Department and the people of Los Angeles are worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING THE 21ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS 2022 SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES

HON. CHIP ROY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, today we congratulate the 2022 Service Academy appointees from the 21st Congressional District of Texas.

The following individuals have accepted Academy Appointments:

Hudson T. Baese, Canyon High School, New Braunfels, United States Air Force Academy. Austin G. Curtis, Robert G. Cole High School, San Antonio, United States Air Force Academy. Walker L. Cunningham, Robert G. Cole High School, San Antonio, United States Merchant Marine Academy. Bradley J. DeMeritt, UTSA, Franklin High School, New Braunfels, United States Military Academy. Joseph G. Drastata, Canyon High School, New Braunfels, United States Military Academy. Logan J. Kitchen, Claudia Taylor Lady Bird Johnson High School, San Antonio, United States Military Academy. Austin W. Locke, UTSA, Boerne High School, Boerne, United States Merchant Marine Academy. John T. Murphy, Wimberly High School, Wimberly, United States Naval Academy. Noah A. Purify, USNAPS, Claudia Taylor Lady Bird Johnson High School, San Antonio, United States Naval Academy. Ella M. Rudik, BASIS Shavano, San Antonio, United States Air Force Academy.

These outstanding students have much to contribute to their chosen Academy and to our country. We appreciate their talents and their patriotism.

I hope my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in congratulating these truly heroic young men and young women.

HONORING 75 YEARS OF THE MICHIGAN WATER COLOR SOCIETY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Michigan Water Color Society as they celebrate their seventy-fifth anniversary. Their significant contributions to our community and their seventy-five years spent promoting local artists and their work throughout the state of Michigan are worthy of commendation.

In September 1946, a group of about 70 watercolorists interested in forming a statewide society met in the galleries at Detroit's Scarab Club to discuss creating what became the Michigan Water Color Society. Their exploratory meeting focused on the need for integrity, professionalism, and inclusion of all points of view. By the end of the year, the Society was established, with Emil Weddige of the University of Michigan and William Bostick of the Detroit Institute of Arts serving as the first co-presidents. Their first exhibition was held in Detroit in June 1947, featuring fifty-nine unique paintings.

Annual juried exhibitions are the Michigan Water Color Society's premier event, these exhibitions feature watercolor paintings by Michigan artists and are on display for Michiganders and art enthusiasts of all ages to see. Winning artists receive cash prizes, and their paintings are then shown at museums around the state. The Michigan Water Color Society also provides other opportunities for Michigan artists to display their art such as "Out of the Box"—a "not necessarily watercolor" art showcase that exhibits other artistic mediums beyond watercolor. A volunteer-run organization, the Michigan Water Color Society has created a welcoming community for artists of all ages and backgrounds. They work tirelessly to promote and showcase the talents of our Michigan artists and share their passion for art with us all.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Michigan Water Color Society on this special day. We are grateful for their seven and a half decades spent enriching our culture in the state of Michigan. We wish them the very best in the years to come and congratulate them on their seventy-fifth annual exhibition at the Kayrod Gallery in Detroit, the city where it all began so many years ago.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENSURING CHILD HEALTH COVERAGE COMPENSATION IN DIVORCE ACT OF 2022

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Ensuring Child Health Coverage

Compensation in Divorce Act of 2022. This bill would require that when a court directs a non-custodial parent (including a stepparent) to provide health insurance for a child, the other parent can get reimbursed directly from the insurer for any out-of-pocket medical expenses for the child incurred by such parent, regardless of the source of insurance.

In a divorce, one parent is typically court-ordered to provide health insurance for the child to prevent the child from being uninsured. However, the other parent may pay for out-of-pocket medical expenses for the child that are reimbursable by the insurer. Under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, group health insurers are required to directly reimburse a parent who pays for reimbursable out-of-pocket medical expenses when the other parent has been court-ordered to provide health insurance for the child. However, other health insurers are not required to directly reimburse the other parent.

This bill would provide the same requirements for all health insurers to ensure that the parent who pays for the out-of-pocket medical expenses is reimbursed.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING WOMEN'S HEALTH MONTH

HON. SHONTEL M. BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Ms. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Women's Health Month. This month, we seek to empower women to make their health a priority and recommit to raising awareness of and addressing the conditions and diseases that impact women across America.

As a woman and as a Black Woman, I am keenly aware of the health challenges that disproportionately impact women of color. From maternal health and autoimmune diseases to mental health and various forms of cancer, women—especially women of color—experience a variety of unique health care issues. Expanding access to health care and improving outreach, awareness, prevention and treatment strategies is critically important.

This Women's Health Month, I would like to draw attention to Uterine Fibroids. More than 25 million American women suffer from Uterine Fibroids, and around 80 percent of Black Women can expect to experience them by age 50. This disease can be devastating to a woman's life and her reproductive health. It causes debilitating symptoms and can negatively impact fertility. Uterine fibroids are a serious public health challenge, and they expose and exacerbate underlying racial health disparities.

In the face of this challenge, we need more funding for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment interventions, as well as public education. That is why I am proud to cosponsor Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE's landmark bill, the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Uterine Fibroid Research and Education Act. The bill, named after my esteemed predecessor in Ohio's Eleventh District who was a longtime champion for women's health issues during her time in Congress, would increase research funding for uterine fibroids.